

Voter Education and Registration



Legislative Advocacy Series, Session 1

SPEAK UP AND SPEAK OUT
summit



Housekeeping

- A recording of this meeting will be sent out along with notes and a link to the presentation within the week.
- Please keep yourself muted while our presenter is talking. Please leave questions until the end of the presentation.
- Captioning is available by pressing the “CC” button at the bottom of your zoom screen.
- Please be respectful.

April Mcclees (she/her)

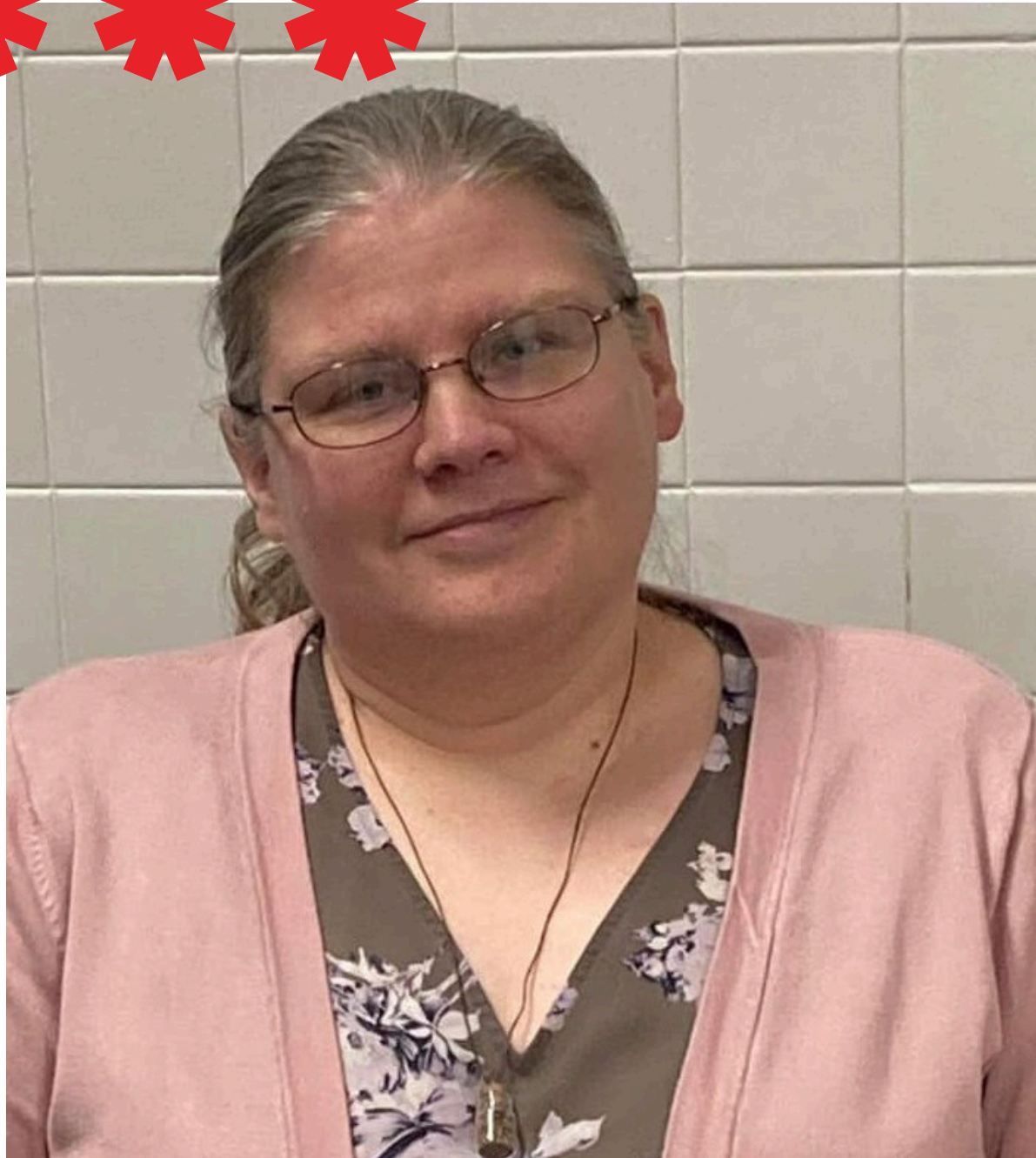


- Transitioned through Shapiro Developmental Center and multiple CILA homes
- Overcame challenges with self-harm, defiance, and community reintegration
- Moved into current CILA home in June 2023
- Achieved GED in under a year and got dream job at Goodwill
- Lives with supportive roommates and staff, is active in her community
- Advocates for less restrictive CILA homes for all

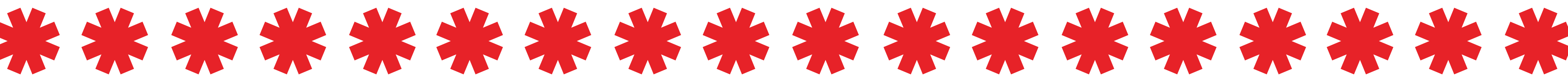
Words to Know

- **suffrage:** the right to vote
- **nonpartisan:** not supporting any political party
- **jurisdiction:** a region in which you live
- **general election:** a day to choose candidates for different offices
- **primary election:** happens before the general election to choose which candidates will be on the ballot for the general election
- **Deputy Registrar:** an official who supports the election office with voter registration and election processes
- **polling place:** the place you go to cast your vote
- **candidate forums:** an event where candidates answer questions given to them by community members or organizations
- **candidate debates:** an event where candidates speak against one another

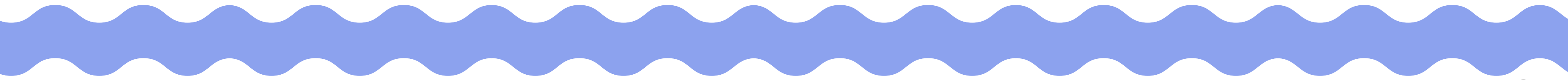
Missy Norman (she/her)



- President of the League of Women Voters of the Springfield area
- Has worked both professionally and personally in disability advocacy and legislative advocacy for over 20 years
- Believes that every issue needs to be seen through a disability lens to be truly inclusive
- Believes that everyone should have equitable access to voting and civic engagement



The How's and Why's of Voting





The League of Women Voters

- We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy
- That has been our vision since 1920, when the League of Women Voters was founded by leaders of the Women's Suffrage Movement
- For 100 years, we have been a nonpartisan, activist, grassroots organization that believes voters should play a critical role in democracy



Who Can Vote in Illinois



- To vote in Illinois, you must be:
 - A United States Citizen
 - A resident of the jurisdiction at least 30 days prior to the election
 - be 18 before the next general election
 - 17 year olds can register and vote in the primary, if they will be 18 before election day, Tuesday November 3rd, 2026

You may vote in Illinois even if you have a guardian!



Registering to Vote

- If you have never registered to vote, you may do so **in person**, **by mail**, or **online**
- You can register to vote in person at:
 - The Board of Elections office
 - Your local election authority
 - Many state offices
 - A **Deputy Registrar** Office
 - Your **polling place** when you go vote



Registering to Vote

- You will need two forms of identification to register
- One form must include your current address
- Go to this [link](#) to learn more about the requirements for registration

Remember, if you move or change your name you must re-register to vote!

Follow this [link](#) to register to vote online





Three Ways to Vote



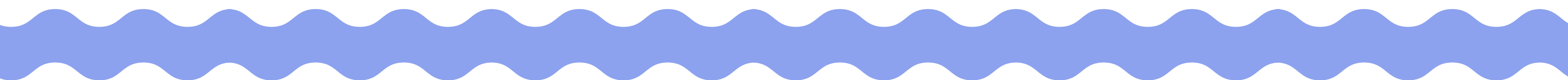
Early Voting

- Early voting for the March 17, 2026 General Primary Election begins on **Thursday, February 5, 2026** and ends on **Monday, March 16th**

Vote By Mail

- Also called an absentee ballot
- Can either be mailed, dropped in specific drop boxes, or taken to the election authority
- learn more at this [link](#)

On Election Day At Your Polling Place

- Find your polling place [here](#)
 - On Election Day at your polling place you may receive a paper ballot or use an electric voting machine, depending on your location
- 



Importance of Voting

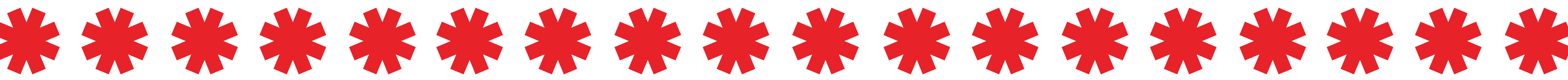
Voting is the best way for you to let those in charge know how you feel about important issues to you and your community

1 in 4 people in the United States has a disability

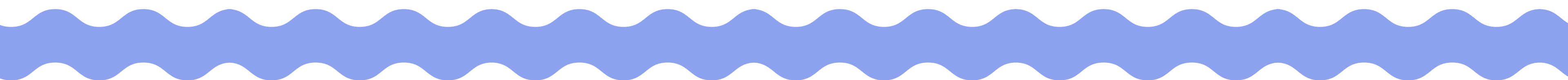
- If everyone with a disability who is eligible to vote does, that is a very large part of the population

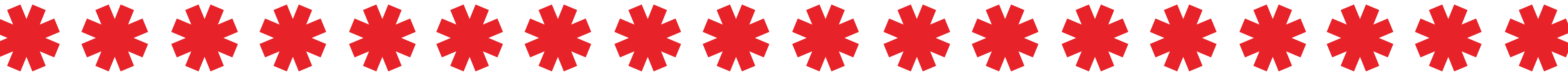
There are issues and people that you will vote for at every level

- Your city
- The state
- The nation



Questions and Answers





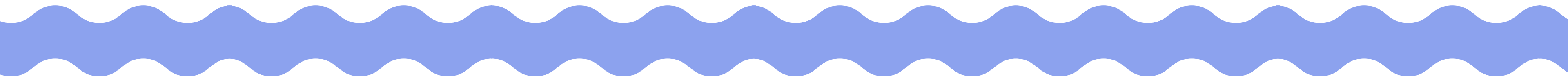
Thank you!

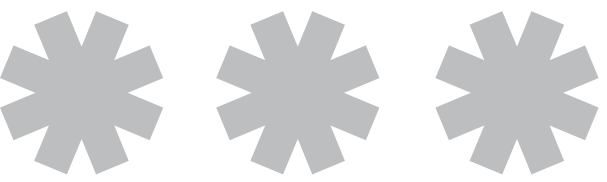
Contact Information:

Missy Norman: mnorman218@gmail.com

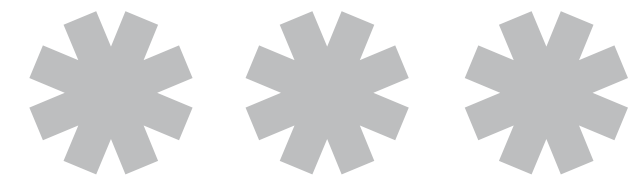
Jennifer Thibodeaux Sands: jennifer@thearcofil.org

Rio Goodwin Perez: rio@thearcofil.org

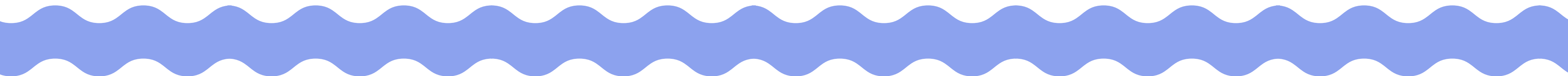


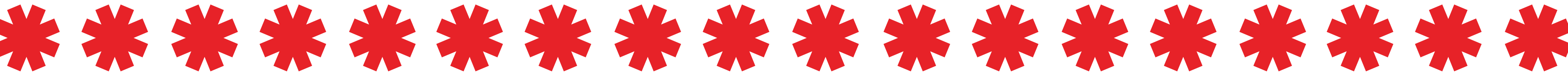


Coming Up Next

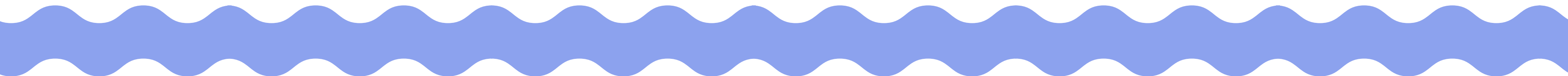


- Informed Citizenship, **January 26 at 10:00 am**
- Looking Up Your Legislator and Current Legislation, **February 2 at 10:00 am**
- How To Submit a Witness Slip, **February 9 at 10:00 am**
- Crafting an Elevator Speech, **February 17 at 10:00 am**
- Arranging a Meeting with Your Legislator, **February 23 at 10:00 am**
- Discussing Political Issues with Civility, **March 2 at 10:00 am**
- How a Bill Becomes a Law at the Federal and State Levels, **March 9 at 10:00 am**





**We will send out the meeting
recording, slides, resources,
and vocabulary words after the
session**





Thank you to our sponsor!



Illinois Council on
Developmental
Disabilities

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